Changes in public examinations system

1144. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group comprising representatives of boards of school education have shown dissatisfication on public examinations;

(b) whether there is a persistant demand to bring changes in the examination system;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether the expert group have submitted any recommendations to Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) No report of any expert group comprising representatives of Boards of School Education expressing dissatisfactron on public examinations have been received by the Government. Reforms in examinations have been a subject for discussion for long. The National Policy on Education, 1986 stipulated adoption of certain functional measures to recast the examination system. Since the public examinations are conducted by the Boards of School Education, the responsibility for adoption of the examination reform measures rests on them. The role of the Central Government is largely recommendatory and advisory in the matter.

Meeting of nine high populated countries regarding Education for all

1145. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of the leaders of nine high populated countries, which account for the bulk of the world's population of illitrerates, was recently held to reaffirm their commitment to the goad of education for all; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) An Education for All Summit of Nine High Population Countries—Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and India—is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 16th December, 1993. Various issue relating to education for all are slotted for consideration.

Identity crisis among inmates of Santiniketan

1146. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Pioneer of 23rd September, 1993 under the caption, 'Wither Santiniketan';

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that identity crisis have crippled Vishwabharati inmates in Santiniketan who are desperately looking for a direction;

(c) what are the details of problems faced by the inmates of Santiniketan; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to create special interest among the inmates about the model education of Tagore in Santiniketan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): Yes, Sir.

(b) Visva-Bharati has informed that it is not a fact that identity crisis has

crippled Visva Bharati inmates in Santiniketan and it has been mentioned that Vishva Bharati still retains its special character.

(c) The problems being faced by teachers, students and other inmates of Santiniketan chiefly relate to residential/hostel accommodation and civic amenities.

(d) Visva-Bharati has a course in Tagore Studies. It consists of extracts from Tagore's writings and lectures on those writings. The course is compulsory for all the students obtaining admission to B.A./B.Sc. irrespective of the subject of their study.

Setting up of National Nutrition Panel

1147. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Nutrition Panel to ensure minimum nutrition supplies to all children up to the age of 6 years has been set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated total number of children forming the focus group of this panel and the criteria for identification of the beneficiaries of the scheme; and what it its modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) The proposal to constitute National Nutrition Council in the Planning Commission is under consideration of the Planning Commission at present. As envisaged under National Nutrition Policy (NNP), this Council will be the highest body for overseeing the implementation of the NNP.

(b) The National Nutrition Policy addresses itself to population suffering from various degrees of under-nutrition and malnutrition. The Policy contains a comprehensive approach to tackle the problems of malnutrition and under-nutrition in the country through a set of direct interventions and indirect policy instruments involving long term institutional and structural changes. The direct interventions identified are expanding the Social Safety Net, Fortification of essential foods, popularisation of low cost nutritious food and Control of Micro-Nutrient deficiencies amongst vulnerable groups. The indirect policy instruments are mainly aimed at providing food security, improving the dietary pattern through production and demonstration, improving the purchasing power and Public Distribution System, improving the status of women, ensuring enhanced community participation and developing the nutritional surveillance system.

It may be mentioned that the beneficiaries will actually get covered under different Sectoral Schemes consistent with the objectives of the National Nutrition Policy.

Theft of Buddha idols from H.P.

1148. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the opening of the inner line border areas to the domestic and foreign tourists in the tribal district Pakong Peo-(Kinnaur-H.P.), Buddha idols and antiques worth crores of rupees have been stolen from the temples;

(b) if so, whether Government made any study with regard to idols and antiques stolen so far with estimated value; and the modus operandi of the persons (officials and non-officials) found to be involved in the racket; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCA-